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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,652	10/17/2001	Russell M. Krapf	A0762	8126
35219 7590 08/03/2010 WESTERN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ATTN: LESLEY NING 20511 LAKE FOREST DR. E-118G LAKE FOREST, CA 92630				
EXAMINER VAN HANDEL, MICHAEL P				
ART UNIT 2424		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 08/03/2010		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/982,652

**Applicant(s)**

KRAPP ET AL.

**Examiner**

MICHAEL VAN HANDEL

**Art Unit**

2424

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 24, 81 and 85-93 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 24, 81 and 85-93 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/C2)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. This action is responsive to an Amendment filed 5/17/2010. Claims **1-20, 24, 81, 85-93** are pending. Claims **1, 85** are amended. Claims **21-23, 25-80, 82-84** are canceled. Claim **93** is new.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments regarding claim **85**, filed 5/17/2010, have been considered, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Applicant's arguments regarding claims **1** and **20**, filed 5/17/2010, have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

Referring to claim **1**, the applicant argues that the 60/281,037 provisional application of Plotnick et al. fails to disclose that steps (e) and (f) are repeated with newly selected advertisements from the plurality of stored advertisements, when receiving an additional signal from a viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system to avoid a currently displayed advertisement until all of the plurality of stored advertisements have been skipped or at least one of the plurality of stored advertisements has been displayed on the display without receiving a viewer command to the audiovisual system to avoid the at least one of the plurality of stored advertisements. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Plotnick et al. discloses determining that an ad insertion opportunity arises in a television broadcast stream and retrieving and inserting an ad from a local storage database based on a user's profile for display (p. 9, 10,

paragraphs 105-107, 112)(p. 19, Part F & p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037). This corresponds to parts (e) and (f) of the claim. Plotnick et al. further discloses determining whether a user watches an ad or skips an ad and using the feedback to modify the profile to determine the next ad to insert and display (p. 12, paragraphs 124, 125 & Fig. 12)(p. 17-18, Part D & Figs. 5A, 5B of 60/281,037). Plotnick et al. further discloses repeating these steps until an ad is watched without being skipped (Advertisement D7, for example)(Fig. 12)(Fig. 5B of 60/281,037). As such, the examiner maintains that Plotnick et al. teaches selecting a first advertisement from a plurality of stored advertisements based on the viewer profile of the viewer of the display, displaying the first advertisement on the display, and repeating steps (e) and (f) with newly selected advertisements, when receiving an additional signal from a viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system to avoid a currently displayed advertisement until all of the plurality of stored advertisements have been skipped or at least one of the plurality of stored advertisements has been displayed on the display without receiving a viewer command to the audiovisual system to avoid the at least one of the plurality of stored advertisements, as currently claimed.

Regarding claim 20, the applicant disagrees with the examiner's taking of Official Notice that it is notoriously well-known within the prior art to broadcast video content over the Internet. In support of the Official Notice, the examiner presents Flickinger et al. (US 2002/0083445). Flickinger et al. discloses sending video signals to subscribers over the Internet (p. 2, paragraph 19), as well as targeting ads to subscribers viewing the video signal (p. 1, paragraph 6).

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims **1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10-19, 24, 81, 89-93** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Plotnick et al. (of record).

Referring to claim **1**, Plotnick et al. discloses a method for displaying a targeted advertisement to a viewer of a display of an audiovisual system in conjunction with displaying a broadcast stream on the display, the method comprising:

- a. selecting a broadcast stream (broadcasted television program)(p. 3, paragraph 62 & p. 5, paragraph 71)(p. 18, 19, Part E of US 60/281,037);
- b. displaying the selected broadcast stream on the display (the user can time shift a broadcast stream with the PVR)(p. 3, paragraph 62 & p. 4, paragraph 63)(p. 18, 19, Part E of US 60/281,037);
- c. receiving a first signal from a viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system (p. 7, paragraph 91; & p. 10, paragraph 109), wherein the audiovisual system is responsive to the viewer command by initiating a corresponding action selected from the group consisting of: fast-forwarding the displayed selected broadcast stream, pausing the displayed selected broadcast stream, and replaying the displayed selected broadcast stream (VCR-like controls of the

- PVR)(p. 3, paragraph 62 & p. 4, paragraph 63)(p. 16, Part C & p. 17, 18, Part D of US 60/281,037);
- d. defining a viewer profile of the viewer of the display based on a content of the displayed selected broadcast stream (the profile keeps track of shows watched)(p. 7, paragraph 88 & p. 9, paragraph 105)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037), the viewer command indicating a reaction by the viewer to the content of the displayed selected broadcast stream (p. 10, paragraphs 109-111)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037), and a timestamp (p. 10, paragraph 109)(p. 19, Part F; p. 21, Part K; & 22, Part M of 60/281,037);
  - e. selecting a first advertisement from a plurality of stored advertisements based on the viewer profile of the viewer of the display (p. 9, 10, paragraphs 105-107, 112)(p. 19, Part F & p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037); and
  - f. displaying the first advertisement on the display (p. 10, paragraph 112)(p. 19, Part F & p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037), wherein steps (e) and (f) are repeated with newly selected advertisements (p. 12, paragraphs 124, 125 & Fig. 12)(p. 17-18, Part D & Figs. 5A, 5B of 60/281,037), when receiving an additional signal from a viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system to avoid a currently displayed advertisement (skip)(p. 12, paragraphs 124, 125 & Fig. 12)(p. 17-18, Part D & Figs. 5A, 5B of 60/281,037) until all of the plurality of stored advertisements have been skipped or at least one of the plurality of stored advertisements has been displayed on the display without receiving a viewer

command to the audiovisual system to avoid the at least one of the plurality of stored advertisements (Fig. 12)(Fig. 5B of 60/281,037).

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "selected from the group consisting of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "or" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the corresponding elements.

Referring to claim 2, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

- g. updating the viewer profile based on a second signal received from the viewer control interface (p. 10, paragraph 110)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037);
- h. selecting a second advertisement from the plurality of stored advertisements based on the updated viewer profile (p. 9, 10, paragraphs 105-107, 112)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037); and
- i. displaying the second advertisement on the display (ads are displayed based on the user profile, and the user profile is updated based on ads displayed, content displayed, user interaction via VCR-like functions, etc.)(p. 10, paragraph 112)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim 4, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 2, wherein step (g) comprises:

- i. receiving a second signal from the viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system, wherein the audiovisual system is responsive to the viewer command indicated by the second signal by initiating an action selected from the group consisting of: recording the first advertisement, specifying how the

- first advertisement is displayed on the display (short or alternative ad when ad is fast forwarded)(p. 11, 12, paragraphs 122, 123)(p. 16, Part C & p. 17, 18, Part D of 60/281,037), and replaying the first advertisement; and
- ii. updating the viewer profile based on the second signal received from the viewer control interface (p. 12, paragraph 123)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037).

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "selected from the group consisting of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claim 6, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 2, wherein step (g) comprises:

- i. receiving a second signal from the viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system, wherein the audiovisual system is responsive to the viewer command by initiating an action selected from the group consisting of: recording the selected broadcast stream, specifying how the selected broadcast stream is displayed on the display, and replaying the selected broadcast stream (essentially a repeat of the step of claim 1, again using VCR-like controls of the PVR)(p. 3, paragraph 62 & p. 4, paragraph 63)(p. 16, Part C & p. 17, 18, Part D of US 60/281,037); and
- ii. updating the viewer profile based on the second signal received from the viewer control interface (the profile keeps track of shows watched and the VCR-like commands)(p. 7, paragraph 88; p. 9, paragraph 105; & p. 10, paragraphs 109-111)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037).



NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "selected from the group consisting of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claim 7, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 2, wherein step (g) comprises:

- i. receiving a second signal from the viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system, wherein the audiovisual system is responsive to the viewer command by initiating a program search (fast forward)(p. 3, paragraph 62 & p. 4, paragraph 63)(p. 15, Part C & p. 16, 17, Part D of 60/281,037); and
- ii. updating the viewer profile based on the second signal received from the viewer control interface (the profile keeps track of shows watched and the VCR-like commands)(p. 7, paragraph 88; p. 9, paragraph 105; & p. 10, paragraphs 109-111)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim 8, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 2, wherein steps (h) - (i) are repeated until a third signal received from the viewer control interface indicates a positive viewer reaction or until a predetermined period of time has elapsed (p. 12, paragraph 124 & Fig. 12)(p. 18, Fig. 5B of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim 10, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises:

- i. displaying an identification of at least one of the stored advertisements including the first advertisement on the display (p. 7, paragraph 85)(p. 23, Part N of 60/281,037); and

- ii. receiving a second signal from the viewer control interface selecting the first advertisement to be displayed on the display (p. 7, paragraph 85)(p. 23, Part N of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **11**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 10, wherein step (e)(i) comprises displaying an identification of at least one of the stored advertisements including the first advertisement via a menu on the display (p. 7, paragraph 85)(p. 23, Part N of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **12**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 10, wherein step (e)(i) comprises displaying an identification of at least one of the stored advertisements including the first advertisement via a banner on the display (p. 6, 7, paragraph 84)(p. 20, Parts G-I of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **13**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 10, wherein step (e)(i) comprises displaying an identification of at least one of the stored advertisements including the first advertisement via an icon on the display (p. 6, 7, paragraph 84)(p. 20, Part G of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **14**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein step (f) comprises displaying the first advertisement on the display immediately prior to displaying a second broadcast stream on the display (can display ad during channel changes)(p. 6, paragraph 83)(p. 8, Table III of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **15**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein step (f) comprises displaying the first advertisement on the display in a time slot adjacent to a time slot for displaying regularly scheduled advertisements within the broadcast stream (p. 12, paragraph 125)(p. 17, Part D of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **16**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein step (f) comprises displaying the first advertisement instead of displaying a regularly scheduled advertisement within the broadcast stream (p. 6, paragraph 83)(p. 18, Part E of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **17**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast stream is a television broadcast stream (p. 9, paragraph 101)(p. 18, 19, Part E of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **18**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast stream is a cable broadcast stream (Fig. 1)(p. 15, Figs. 3A, 3B of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **19**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast stream is a satellite broadcast stream (Fig. 1)(p. 15, Figs. 3A, 3B of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **24**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising storing the plurality of advertisements on a hard disk drive (p. 6, paragraph 80 & Fig. 1)(p. 15, Figs. 3A, 3B & p. 17, Part D of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **81**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 4, wherein specifying how the first advertisement is displayed on the display comprises an action selected from the group consisting of: fast forwarding the first advertisement (p. 12, paragraph 123)(p. 16, Part C & p. 17, 18, Part D of 60/281,037), displaying the first advertisement without modification, and pausing the first advertisement.

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "selected from the group consisting of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claim **89**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the displayed broadcast stream is a program (p. 9, paragraph 101)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **90**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the displayed broadcast stream is an advertisement (p. 11, 12, paragraph 122)(p. 17, 18, Part D of 60/281,037).

Referring to claims **91** and **92**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the timestamp indicates a time of the viewer command within the displayed broadcast stream and wherein the timestamp indicates a time of day (p. 10, paragraph 109)(p. 19, Part F; p. 21, Part K; & p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037).

Referring to claim **93**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the viewer command to avoid the currently displayed advertisement comprises at least one of the following:

- a fast forward command (p. 12, paragraph 124)(p. 17, 18, Part D of 60/281,037);
- a skip forward command (p. 12, paragraph 124)(p. 17, 18, Part D of 60/281,037);
- a power off command; or
- a change channel command.

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "at least one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims **3, 9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plotnick et al. in view of Knudson et al. (of record).

Referring to claims **3** and **9**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claims 2 and 1, respectively. Plotnick et al. further discloses updating the user profile (p. 10, paragraph 110)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037). Plotnick et al. does not specifically disclose transmitting the updated viewer profile to a head end. Knudson et al. discloses an interactive television program guide system in which targeted advertisements are presented to a user and a user's actions are monitored to target the advertisements (see Abstract). Knudson et al. further discloses that the set-top boxes transmit updating information about the user's interactions to the television distribution facility (p. 3, paragraph 51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the monitoring system of Plotnick et al. to upload updated monitoring information to the distribution facility, such as that taught by Knudson et al. in order to help advertisers make their advertisements more effective (Knudson et al. p. 8, paragraph 91).

8. Claims **85-88** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plotnick et al. in view of Eldering.

Referring to claims **85, 86, and 88**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1. Plotnick et al. further discloses defining a viewer profile by using heuristic rules indicating the relationships between programming choices and demographics to generate probabilistic information regarding demographics and programming and product interests (p. 7, paragraph 88)(p. 22, Part M of 60/281,037). Plotnick et al. does not specifically disclose defining at least

two individual profiles associated with potentially different viewers based on different portions of the viewer profile and selecting the first advertisement based on one of the individual profiles and a time of day that the first advertisement is to be displayed and displaying the first advertisement on the display at the time of day, where the time of day is an evening. Eldering discloses an advertising scheduling method and apparatus (see Abstract). A profile for targeting advertisements is generated based on probabilistic demographic and/or psychographic information of the subscriber (p. 3, paragraph 36). Eldering further discloses using probabilistic determinations to determine a profile of a viewer who is likely to be viewing the content. For example, if a profile is generated for a household containing a husband and a wife, the system determines that the husband is watching the television when ESPN is tuned and the wife is watching the television when LIFETIME is tuned (p. 5, paragraph 59). Eldering further discloses that the determination can be time-of-day dependent. If it is probabilistically determined that a particular viewer within a certain demographic category is likely to be viewing the television at a certain time of day, advertising can be targeted for that particular viewer (p. 5, 6, paragraph 60). Eldering also discloses determining that Monday Night Football is a timeslot that would present advertisers with a large number of male viewers between the ages of 21 and 39 (p. 1, paragraph 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the profile generation of Plotnick et al. to further determine the likelihood that a particular viewer out of the profile is using the television based on a time of day, such as that taught by Eldering in order to enable an advertiser to more narrowly reach his audience (Eldering p. 2, paragraph 10).

Referring to claim **87**, the combination of Plotnick et al. and Eldering teaches the method of claim 85, wherein selecting the first advertisement in step (e) is further based on a content of a second broadcast stream being displayed at the time of day (Plotnick et al. Fig. 12)(p. 18, Fig. 5B of 60/281,037).

9. Claim **5** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plotnick et al. in view of Swix et al. (of record).

Referring to claim **5**, Plotnick et al. disclose the method of claim 2. Plotnick et al. does not specifically disclose that step (g) comprises receiving a second signal from the viewer control interface indicating a viewer command to the audiovisual system, wherein the audiovisual system is responsive to the viewer command by initiating a purchase of a good/service and updating the viewer profile based on the second signal received from the viewer control interface. Swix et al. discloses a system for providing targeted advertisements over a media delivery system (see Abstract). Swix et al. further discloses updating a viewer profile based on services a customer has purchased or used over the interactive television, such as video on demand (col. 7, l. 52-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the television monitoring system of Plotnick et al. to include monitoring user purchases made over the television system, such as that taught by Swix et al. in order to better assess a customer's tastes and deliver new, pertinent advertisements (Swix et al. col. 3, l. 19-22).

10. Claim **20** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plotnick et al.

Referring to claim **20**, Plotnick et al. discloses the method of claim 1. Plotnick et al. does not specifically disclose that the broadcast stream is an Internet broadcast stream; however, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is notoriously well-known within the prior art to broadcast video content over the Internet. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the television monitoring system of Plotnick et al. to receive video over the Internet, such as that taught by the prior art in order to allow a subscriber to receive their video content at many locations over a commonly used distribution network.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.



Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL VAN HANDEL whose telephone number is (571)272-5968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:30pm Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Van Handel/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2424

7/29/2010